

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 OIC-04 CEQ-02

EPA-04 ACDA-19 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 FEA-02 DRC-01 /206 W
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R 071921Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AEC GERMANTOWN 1198

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: ENERGY - DISCUSSION
IN COMMITTEE I

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE COMMITTEE I DISCUSSION OF ENERGY DURING
THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON JUNND COMPLETE SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S
NEW PROPOSALS FOR A
COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF
BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS AND
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A SHORT PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S PRESENT EFFORTS IN

ENERGY R&D. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMISSION PROPOSALS. EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY FERNAND SPAAK SUMARIZED THE COMMISSION'S NEW PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. THE PROPOSALS ARE NOT FORECASTS OF FUTURE ENERGY MATTERS BUT AN ATTEMPT TO FIX OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMUNITY. BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OBJECTIVES AND NOT FORECASTS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REVISE THEM AS SOME OF THE NINE WILL BE ABLE TO DO MORE AND OTHERS LESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS OF THE POLICY. HE SAID THE APPROACH ENVISAGES, HOWEVER, A TRUE COMMUNITY APPROACH AND IS NOT JUST THE SUM OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS; THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO ATTEMPT TO TRANSLATE THE COMMUNITY PROPOSALS INTO SPECIFIC NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COMMITMENTS.

3. SPAAK SAID THE NEW PROPOSALS HAVE FOUR BROAD OBJECTIVES: TO INCREASE THE SECURITY OF THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY SUPPLIES, TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BY REDUCING THE NECESSITY FOR EXPENDITURES ON ENERGY IMPORTS, TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO CONSERVE ENERGY. HE NOTED THAT ALL THESE FOUR OBJECTIVES ARE INTERACTING AND LEAD TO THE SAME POLICY.

4. SPAAK THEN DISCUSSED THE AIMS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS, WHICH ARE TO REDUCE THE DEPENDENCY ON IMPORTS FROM AN EXPECTED 60 PERCENT IN 1985 TO 40 PERCENT. THE LONGER RANGE GOAL IS THAT BY THE YEAR 2000 APPROXIMATELY HALF THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY WILL BE FROM NUCLEAR SOURCES, ONE-FOURTH FROM FOSSIL FUELS, AND ONE-FOURTH FROM NATURAL GAS. BETWEEN NOW AND 1985 THE COMMUNITY MUST REDUCE AND MODIFY ITS DEMAND FOR ENERGY; THIS WOULD BE DONE BY A REDUCTION IN THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND BY INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION WHICH IS SATISFIED BY ELECTRICITY. THE COMMUNITY MUST ALSO CHANGE ITS SUPPLY PATTERNS AND THIS WOULD BE DONE BY INCREASING NUCLEAR ENERGY, MAINTAINING COAL PRODUCTION, DECREASING THE PROPORTIONAL USE OF PETROLEUM, AND INCREASING THE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL GAS. (COPIES OF THE PAPER CONTAINING THE COMMISSION'S NEW PROPOSALS WILL BE HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY US OFFICIALS RETURNING FROM THE US/EC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATIONS; A DETAILED MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSTATION ON SPAAK'S REMARKS IS BEING PREPARED.)

5. ECG AND OECD. DURING A DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY AFFAIRS, SPAAK AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL WELLENSTEIN EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN SEEING GREATER USE MADE ON THE OECD. SPAAK NOTED THAT THREE OF THE ECG WORKING GROUPS ARE

LOCATED WITHIN THE OECD FRAMEWORK AND SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE WORK OF THE ENERGY R&D SUBGROUP ALSO IN THE OECD. HE RECALLED THAT THE OECD ITSELF HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT THE R&D WORK AS WELL AS THE WORK BEING PERFORMED BY THE SUBGROUP ON THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANISE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMEN RESPONDED THAT WE ARE AGREED THAT THE OECD IS A SUITABLE ORGAIIIZATION FOR CERTAIN INTERANTIONAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY MATTERS BUT SIAD THAT WE WOULD MAKE OUR DECISION ABOUT THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF ONGOING ECG WORK FOLLOWING THE ECG MEETINGS IN JUNE AND JULY, WHEN THE REPORTS FROM THE VARIOUS SUBGROUPS WILL BE REVIEWED AND COORDINATED. MEANWHILE, WE DID NOT WANT TO PREJUDICE THE FINAL DECISION ON HOW BEST TO CARR ON THE WORK BEGUN BY ECG. HE SAID WE ASSUMED THE COMMISSION IS GETTING REPORTS FROM THOSE MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE ECG AND NOTED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HAVE US DELEGATES TO THE ECG TALK WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS WHEN IN BRUSSELS.

6. ENERGY R&D. IN A SHORT DISCUSSION OF THE COMMISSION'S ENERGY R&D EFFORTS, DE STORDEUR OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION SAID THAT PRELIMINARY WORK HAS BEEN UNDER WAY IN THE COMMISSION AND A PAPER HAS NOW BEEN DRAFTED ON WHICH THE THREE DIRECTORATES GENERAL CONCERNED ARE AGREED. HOWEVER, THIS PRELIMINARY PAPER IS NOT YET A FIRM STATEMENT ON WHAT THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS WILL BE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT COMMUNITY ENERGY R&D EFFORTS WILL FOCUS ON ENERGY MODELING, ENERGY CONSERVATION, AND THREE NEW ENERGY SOURCES: HYDROGEN, GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR. DE STORDEUR NOTED THE RECENT COMMISSION/ US DISCUSSIONS OF ENERGY R&D AND SAID THESE HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL. HARTMAN RESPONDED THAT WE MUST CONSIDER WHETHER THOSE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CONTINUED, EITHER IN THE OECD, ECG, OR A BILATERAL FRAMEWORK. GREENWALD
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, POLICIES, RESEARCH, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, DIRECTOR GENERAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU03922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740147-0047
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740666/aaaacepl.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <17 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: ENERGY - DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE I
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005